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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

28 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military SituationSummary

UN forces in the Seoul area continue to eliminate bitterly resisting enemy pockets in the northwestern outskirts of Seoul while reinforced enemy units halted the northward attack of US airborne troops on the Kimpo peninsula west of Seoul. In the southeastern area, the enemy has concentrated forces in Taejon for a determined defense of that town (press reports indicate the fall of the town after a bitter battle in the eastern approaches). ROK forces are continuing a rapid advance along the mountainous central and eastern front. Naval support by gunfire and carrier strikes continued in the Seoul area. UN air activity was limited by adverse weather and the lack of suitable targets.

Ground

Although major enemy units have evacuated the city of Seoul, enemy pockets continue to resist in the northern and northwestern outskirts of the city. An enemy attack against the 7th Marine Regiment made a slight penetration in the northwest section of Seoul, but a US counter-attack later in the day restored the positions. On the Kimpo peninsula near the Kimpo airfield, reinforced enemy units halted the northward advance of elements of the 187th Airborne Regiment. An enemy attack in battalion strength against the Suwon-Osan road was repulsed by the 31st Regiment of the US 7th Division. Prisoners taken in this engagement were from the North Korean 13th Division, previously reported just north of Taegu.

In the expanding southeastern battle zone, a regiment of the US 25th Division made an unopposed 20 mile sweep into southwestern Korea from Chinju, while other elements of that division encountered light to moderate resistance in a northwestern advance. The US 2nd Division continued to encounter sporadic resistance in its advance north and west of Amui.

The US 24th was held up by well-emplaced enemy defenses 6 miles east of Taejon, indicating that the enemy is concentrating for a defense of that city (a late press report announced the fall of Taejon after a bitter engagement on the eastern approaches to the city).

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North and west of Taegu, the US 1st Cavalry Division and the ROK 1st Division continued to advance against light to moderate enemy resistance.

In the ROK zone of action, the ROK forces continued an almost unopposed sweep through the mountainous east coast sector. Reports of enemy fortification activities in the vicinity of Yongwol may foreshadow a more determined enemy defense in this area.

Navy

UN carrier aircraft supported ground troops and attacked enemy transportation facilities in the Seoul area. Fleet units patrolled both coasts and reported increased enemy mining activity on the west coast.

Air

Adverse weather and the lack of suitable targets reduced UN combat sorties to half of a normal day's operations. B-29's continued destruction of railroad facilities in North Korea.

II. General Situation

The first reports of North Korean POW interrogations dealing with psychological matters reveal conflicting attitudes of the North Koreans toward UN forces and the Republic of Korea. Some prisoners of war claim that the thorough and effective Communist propaganda has convinced all North Koreans that their case is righteous and has aroused considerable antagonism toward the "foreign controlled government of the Republic of Korea." Other prisoners assert, however, that many North Koreans are skeptical of extravagant Communist propaganda, and retain considerable faith in the US intentions and capabilities in Korea.

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